

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 4 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated February 8, 2005.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejection:

- 1) claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,730) in view of Anderson (U.S. Patent No. 6,137,534).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With regard to Nagasaki et al., the Examiner again acknowledges that Nagasaki et al. fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about compressing a plurality of size-reduced images after ending the successive picture taking operations. See, lines 1-4, page 3 of the Action.

In order to compensate for the above noted drawbacks and deficiencies of Nagasaki et al., the Examiner relies on Anderson and asserts the following:

Anderson discloses a digital camera in which a main image signal is stored together with a compressed size-reduced image corresponding to the main image signal (e.g., Fig. 5, item 608) which provides the ability to accelerate a camera user interface (c. 6, l. 53 – c. 7, 1.5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to adapt the camera of Nagasaki to create enhanced image files as taught by Anderson by including compressed-size reduced images along with the full resolution image in order to accelerate a camera user interface.¹

However, while Applicant does not believe that the applied references of Nagasaki et al. and Anderson disclose or fairly suggest anything concerning compressing a plurality of size-reduced image after ending successive picture taking operations, the Examiner does indicate that “[i]f claim 1 were amended to require that the compression of the main image were to take place prior to the taking of the next successive picture, then it would overcome the above rejection based on Nagasaki in view of Anderson.”²

As such, claim 1 has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. More specifically, claim 1, as amended, now calls for a main image compressor for compressing a single main image every time a single picture-taking operation is carried out so as to create a single compressed main image prior to the taking of the next successive picture.

Accordingly, as noted by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that such amendments clearly overcome the rejection based on Nagasaki in view of Anderson.

¹ Please see, lines 5-12, page 3 of the Action.

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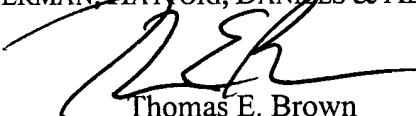
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicant submits that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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² Please see, the bridging sentence between pages 3 and 4 of the Action.